Indo-Bangladesh Foreign Secretary-level talks

1160. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues discussed and the decisions taken at the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Bangladesh held at Delhi in June last; and

(b) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Foreign Secretary-level talks took place from 21-22 June, 2005. Issues relating to security, peaceful management of the borders, cross border illegal movement of people, cooperation in water resources, economic and trade cooperation, investment promotion, cooperation in science and technology and agriculture, defence exchanges and cultural relations were discussed. Both sides highlighted the importance they attach to bilateral relations and their sincere desire to further expand, deepen and strengthen their cooperation.

Following are the decisions taken during the talks:—

- The two sides reaffirmed their commitment not to allow their territory to be used for any activities inimical to each other's interests.
- The two sides agreed to facilitate repair and development works along the India-Bangaladesh border.
- The two sides decided to expedite the early conclusion of the Treaty on Mutual Cooperation for Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (BIPPA) and Cultural Exchange Programme.
- The two sides agreed to strengthen measures to combat trafficking in women and children.
- The two sides agreed to the early convening of the next round of Home Secretary level talks.
- The two sides decided to resume meetings of the Joint Boundary Working Groups (JBWG) to consider boundary-related issues
- The two sides agreed to address issues related to exchange of enclaves and territories in adverse possessions.

- The two sides agreed to the convening of the Joint Rivers Commission in Dhaka at a mutually convenient time.
- The two sides agreed that the revised Trade Agreement be signed at an early date.
- The two sides agreed that the bilateral Joint Working Group on Trade, para-tariff and non-tariff barriers and on customs matters should meet by August, 2005.
- It was agreed to explore the possibility of commencing Dhaka-Guwahati, Dhaka-Shillong, Dhaka-Siliguri bus services.
- The two sides agreed to carry forward discussions relating to the tri-nation gas pipeline.
- The two sides agreed to increase cooperation in the fields of Agriculture and Science and Technology.

(b) The Ministry of External Affairs has initiated action on the above decisions with the concerned Ministries/departments and agencies in the Government of India.

Agreements with USA during Prime Minister's visit

†1161. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of discussions took place and agreements signed during Prime Minister's visit to America;

(b) whether America has made a promise to recognize India as a nuclear power, to supply nuclear fuel, to support Indian claim for permanent seat in U.N. Security Council, and not to interfere in Pakistan issue;

(c) the overall impact of the agreement signed during this visit on Indo-American and Indo-Pak-American relations; and

(d) whether the President, Mr. Bush has accepted an invitation for visiting India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Prime Minister visited the United States at the invitation of President Bush from 17-20 July, 2005. The agenda for discussions included strengthening of bilateral relations,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.